

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FRG PLANS FOR BERLIN--REORGANIZATION
AND SUBORDINATION OF FEDERAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (VERI) NOW IN BERLIN

SUMMARY: AT MARCH 14 TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP MEETING
ALLIED REPS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE VERI REORGANIZATION AS
RECENTLY RAISED IN BONN GROUP BY FRG. TENTATIVE CONCLU-
SION OF ALLIED REPS IS THAT REORGANIZATION AS CONTAINED
IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE PRELIMINARY DRAFT
BILL WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH QA BUT
POLITICAL OPPORTUNENESS OF SUCH MOVE NOW QUESTIONABLE.
END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE EARLY 1970S A FEDERAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (VERI) HAS EXISTED IN BERLIN AS A
PUBLIC LAW ENTITY. THE 1969 LAW WHICH SET UP VERI
PROVIDES THAT THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTE
COMES FROM THE FRG FEDERAL BUDGET, AND THAT FEDERAL
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MINISTERS FOR ECONOMICS AND FOR LABOR HAVE WIDE SUPER-

VISORY AUTHORITY TO, E.G., APPOINT VERI OFFICIALS (WHO ARE "INDIRECT FEDERAL OFFICIALS"), APPROVE ITS RESEARCH PROGRAM, OK ITS BY-LAWS, AND TO APPOINT--AFTER RECOMMENDATION OF THE VERI MAIN COMMITTEE--ITS PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF VERI ARE LISTED IN LAW AND INCLUDE THE MAJOR FRG INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND LABOR UNIONS AS WELL AS THE FEDERATION, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY THE ECONOMICS AND LABOR MINISTERS. THE VERI PRESIDENT IS A FULL-TIME OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH ADMINISTERING THE INSTITUTE AND WITH CARRYING OUT ITS RESEARCH PROGRAM.

2. PRELIMINARY DRAFT BILL OF FRG EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTRY WOULD CREATE NEW FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (IVE) WHICH WOULD BE LOCATED IN BONN. "RIGHTS, DUTIES, AND PROPERTY" OF VERI IN BERLIN WOULD BE ASSUMED BY IVE, TO WHICH IT WOULD BECOME SUBORDINATE. NEW IVE IN BONN WOULD BE "LEGALLY COMPETENT INSTITUTE," WHOSE OFFICIALS WOULD BE "DIRECT FEDERAL OFFICIALS" APPOINTED BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE WHO WOULD HAVE SOMEWHAT BROADER SUPERVISORY AND OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY THAN TWO MINISTERS NOTED ABOVE NOW HAVE WITH RESPECT TO VERI. AS SUBORDINATE OFFICE OF THE NEW INSTITUTE, VERI IN BERLIN (WITH SAME NAME AS NOW) WOULD BE A LEGALLY DEPENDENT "WORKING SECTION" OF THE IVE WITH A CONTINUING FUNCTION OF CONDUCTING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH.

3. AT MARCH 14 TRIPARTITE MEETING ALLIED REPS NOTED THAT VERI UNDER PRELIMINARY DRAFT WOULD BE IN MUCH DIFFERENT POSITION THAN FEA, WHICH WAS CREATED BY LAW AS AN "INDEPENDENT" FEDERAL AUTHORITY. REPS WERE GENERALLY OF VIEW THAT POLITICAL OPPORTUNENESS OF REORGANIZATION AND SUBORDINATION OF VERI WAS QUESTIONABLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE NO BENEFIT TO BERLIN COULD BE DISCERNED IN THE IDEA. ON OTHER HAND, REPS AGREED THAT CARRYING OUT PLAN AS CONTAINED IN PRELIMINARY DRAFT WOULD APPEAR TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH QA.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: AS FRG REP INDICATED WHEN HE PASSED PRELIMINARY DRAFT BILL TO ALLIES, IDEA
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MUST BE SEEN IN OVERALL CONTEXT OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION REFORM AS DOMESTIC FRG POLITICAL ISSUE. FRG REP WAS CANDID IN STATING THAT, WHILE SOME FRG FUNCTIONS WOULD BE REMOVED FROM BERLIN IF PRELIMINARY DRAFT BILL EFFECTED, THOSE REMAINING WITH VERI WOULD BE MORE CLOSELY THAN HERETOFORE SUBORDINATED TO BONN. AT MARCH 14 TRIPARTITE MEETING, ALLIED REPS WERE DISPOSED TO INFORM FRG AT NEXT BONN GROUP MEETING

OF VIEWS CONTAINED PARA 3 ABOVE AS "PRELIMINARY
UNINSTRUCTED REACTION." REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE.
HILLENBRAND

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